

STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT

Clarke Press Release

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SEN. HANSEN CLARKE FOCUSED ON FAIR INSURANCE AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT MACKINAC CONFERENCE

LANSING – State Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) took his fight for fair insurance and job opportunities for Michigan’s citizens to Mackinac Island, where he met with business executives during the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce’s policy conference held on the island each year.

Sen. Clarke has been an advocate for diversifying our economy by supporting Governor Jennifer Granholm’s 21st Century Jobs Fund initiative that will provide start up funding for companies involved in high-tech industries like life sciences and alternative energy research. Already, more than 500 businesses have applied for the first available funds, including more than 100 applicants from Wayne County alone. Overall, the 21st Century Jobs Fund is expected to pump \$2 billion into Michigan's economy over the next few years.

“We want to have even more people take advantage of these resources,” said Sen. Clarke. “The Jobs Fund is a tool that will be used to jump start our economy now. Owners will have access to the money they need to expand their business, which will grow our economy in the future.”

Clarke also discussed his work to provide jobs and attract business investment as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He has focused on bringing resources back to the region for education, libraries, and roads, which are all factors in businesses determining whether to locate or stay in a community.

Since learning that a national insurance company has been basing eligibility and insurance rates on criteria such as a person’s job and level of education, Sen. Clarke has been fighting to put an end to these practices. During the conference, Sen. Clarke met with industry leaders to discuss his legislation, which would ban such practices.

“Using these criteria to determine whether a person should have insurance and how much he should pay is not fair,” said Sen. Clarke. “It is bad for consumers, bad for business, and bad for our entire economy.”

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